advancing to the Strymon threatened the capital of Constantine itself. But there the Greeks turned the Normans to flight and the fourth great attack failed,

It was the last great enterprise of the Norman dynasty. But their heir, Henry VI., had at the moment of his death (1197) claimed a half of the Byzantine dominions as part of the Sicilian inheritance, and only his untimely end perhaps saved the decaying Empire, The real fruit of the long designs of Guiscard and his Norman successors was reaped in 1204* though by far other hands than theirs, when the ill-assorted warriors of the Fourth Crusade, forswearing their design against the Holy Land, took up as Guiscard had done before them the cause of a Greek claimant, and stormed the ancient capital of the Basileus. That Latin Empire of Constantinople, so bizarre in aspect, so disastrous in its results, which lingered on to 1261, was indirectly the work of Guiscard, Roger, and William, for it was they who made familiar to the West the idea of overthrowing the decaying and schismatic Empire df the Greeks.

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